



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED FOR STALKING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE**

CHICAGO—A Chicago man who victimized a federal worker by calling her daily, mailing her packages, and attempting to speak to her son at a daycare center while she was at work, was convicted last week in Cook County Criminal Court of felony stalking and sentenced to serve up to three years in a mental health facility, following an investigation by the Federal Protective Service (FPS).

Joseph Digangi, 49, was convicted and sentenced July 21 by Circuit Court Judge James M. Schreier and ordered to have no further contact with the victim.

The victim, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) employee, first contacted FPS in April 2003 to report that Digangi had been stalking her for several years. Digangi called the victim at least five times each day and was sending her items in the mail, including a package containing a knife. Digangi also attempted to speak to the victim's son at a daycare facility by claiming he was the child's father. The stalking escalated when Digangi visited the victim's residential building and began asking questions about her son. FPS, the agency that investigates threats against government officials, warned Digangi not to contact the victim again.

On Sept. 30, 2003, Digangi visited the Metcalfe Federal Building and left some personal items for the victim on her desk. The victim, who was not at work the day of Digangi's visit, reported this incident to FPS. Digangi was arrested that day and charged with criminal trespass. The charges were later upgraded to felony stalking.

During the court proceedings the victim's car was vandalized and she found a teddy bear nailed to a tree in front of her house. The victim, who had never met Digangi, transferred employment from a U.S. Senator's office to HUD in an effort to elude Digangi, but he again encountered her on a government website. The victim also changed residences, but Digangi obtained her new address by telling the building engineer at the old address that he was a good friend of the victim.

“Our job is to ensure all government employees are protected as they go to work each day,” said Cherie McLendon, FPS threat management chief in Chicago. “No one has a right to abuse, intimidate, harass or threaten civil servants. Every threat is taken seriously and we will use all our police authorities to provide safe workplaces for them ”

FPS protects and secures over one million tenants and daily visitors at federal facilities nationwide as a division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). FPS has a workforce of 1,500 special agents, police officers, inspectors, and more than 10,000 contracted security personnel.

# ICE #

*ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.*